

BEIRUT**The Spy Set**

Until one evening last winter when H.A.R. ("Kim") Philby got out of the taxi "to send a telegram" and never reappeared, he had made this handsome, cosmopolitan city his headquarters since shortly after he left (or is said to have left) the British Foreign Service a decade ago. As son of the famous explorer and correspondent for two of the world's most influential journals—*The Observer* and *The Economist*, both of which now state that the Foreign Office

Abroad

suggested his employment—he had, of course, no trouble going anywhere and seeing everyone in the Near East. He married the former wife of *New York Times* correspondent Sam Pope Brewer, whom he had met while First Secretary of the British Embassy in Washington. There too he often frolicked with Donald Maclean and his college classmate, Guy Burgess—whom he tipped off that their game was up, in time to permit their getaway. He and his wife were gay and very active members of Beirut society, bridging European and Arab circles, especially in demand at parties of all the embassies, and always warm in welcome to the military and diplomatic officers who arrive regularly for Arabic studies at the well-known center nearby. He has now evidently made his way to the other side of the Curtain, where, too, he will see many friends, including a number he met long ago as a correspondent in Spain's civil war. What worries a few British security officials (most are beyond worry at this point) is the presumption that Kim, in his turn, was tipped off that exposure was at hand by a member of the Foreign Service—or, some say, by a security officer.

VIENTIANE**Partition**

Although no one has yet been willing to acknowledge the fact officially, Laos' united front troika regime, negotiated by the fourteen powers plus the leaders of the three Laotian factions at Geneva two years ago, has collapsed. As the result of the recent fighting in the Plain of Jars, Laos has *already* been partitioned de facto between a Communist and a non-Communist regime, in the mode of Korea and Vietnam. The Communists rule the northeastern half, including the entire Ho Chi-minh trail, which is the line of communication and supply between North Vietnam-China and the South Vietnam guerrillas. The non-Communists hold, essentially, the valley of the Mekong river, which constitutes the border with Thailand.

TAIPEI**Aid to Africa**

Several years ago Free China's government realized that the successful Chinese development of Taiwan's agriculture to meet the needs of an expanded and expanding population was directly relevant to the food problems of many of the new African nations. They thereon insti-

tuted a program of technical aid, and are well pleased with both the economic and the political results that are being achieved. Chinese technical missions are now working in Liberia, Libya, Dahomey and Ivory Coast, and have already shown that in those countries intensive rice cultivation is possible even under difficult natural conditions. Farming personnel from nineteen African countries are presently attending a half-year seminar in Taiwan, the second of its kind. After an extended visit to Taiwan, a Dahomey journalist, Paulin Joachim, writes in an article just published in a Senegal journal: "Free China can and should be a model for the young African countries that are still struggling with the serious problems of under-development and inadequate food."

BEN ROTH AGENCY



Jon London Daily Mail

"Tell me, Mr. Wilson,
can anyone join
the Conservative Party?"

SALISBURY, SOUTHERN RHODESIA**Reaching the Sea**

Because many of the new African nations are landlocked, the problem of getting to the sea is frequently decisive for economic development. In turn, the location of present or planned routes to the sea becomes a revealing index of their real political outlook. Thus, Northern Rhodesia's fierce nationalism is somewhat frustrated in practice by the fact that its copper goes by rail through still-white Salisbury on to the port of Beira in Portuguese Mozambique. There is an alternate route, but this runs through Katanga to Portugal's western province of Angola. The new Northern Rhodesian boss, Kenneth Kaunda, is wondering whether he can get out of this dependence on the colonialist devils by building a new line through Julius Nyerere's solid black Tanganyika, but that would be a long, difficult and expensive project. Southern Rhodesia, for her part, is reported to have arranged with South Africa for a new all-white railroad line to Johannesburg. Though this would be shorter and more economic than the present route through Bechuanaland (which Britain may soon grant a black government), the line to the sea at Beira is still shorter and cheaper. All this suggests that the Southern Rhodesians a) look toward much closer relations with South Africa, and b) have doubts about Portuguese ability to hold Mozambique.

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